

March 30, 1973

Mrs. Ann Tucker
106½ East Main
Shelby, Ohio 44875

Dear Mrs. Tucker:

In reply to your letter of March 21st, yes, it is possible for both your parents to be Rh positive while you are Rh negative. Each of them must have inherited an Rh negative gene from one of their parents. By the current laboratory procedures, if a person has one Rh positive gene and one negative, the tests always show up as being positive. Possibly, Chapter 24 in the book, "Is My Baby Alright?", by Mrs. Joan Beck and me should be helpful. Your public library may have a copy.

How nice that you are pregnant again! There should be no trouble with the baby if tests on your own blood show no signs of Rh troubles. I am sure your doctor is already checking your blood for that even though you did receive Rhogam.

There are a number of reasons for jaundice in the newborn besides Rh incompatibility but most of these babies turn out very well. Apparently, you make big babies, since the first one weighed more than seven pounds when it was born four weeks early. So do not worry unduly about having a baby early and follow your doctor's advice.

Women vary a lot about just when they feel labor "pains." I know of one woman who, with her first baby, had no pains at all and it was difficult to convince her that she was about to give birth. Most women would envy you this short period of discomfort. Again, keep in touch with your physician frequently toward the end of pregnancy. You could deliver entirely normally with no pains at all.

Thank you for writing me.

Sincerely yours,

VA:bs

Virginia Apgar, M.D., M.P.H.

bcc: VL